

September 2021

Dear parents/carers

Welcome to the new school year. We hope you have enjoyed the summer break.

As you may be aware, the government has removed many of the restrictions that schools have had to follow over the last academic year. This will help reduce the disruption to children and young people's education as we learn to live with Covid safely. Of course, it is still necessary to be careful and all schools have a robust risk assessment in place.

The main changes from this term are:

- No bubbles – pupils can mix freely and social distancing will no longer be necessary.
- No requirement for face coverings – though pupils are free to wear them if they want to. Staff and visitors are free to wear a face covering in communal areas if they wish to.
- No staggered start and finish times.
- No curriculum limits (eg indoor sports, music)
- No need to self-isolate if pupils are a close contact of a positive case. Identified close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test.
- Staff and visitors who are a close contact will not need to isolate if they are fully vaccinated (latest dose more than 2 weeks previously). They should take a PCR test.

Staying the same

- Please continue to let school know if someone tests positive.
- School staff and secondary pupils will continue to test themselves twice a week, using lateral flow tests. If they test positive they still need to book a PCR test and if positive, isolate for 10 days.
- Schools will continue to keep classrooms well ventilated and clean, and encourage good hygiene and hand washing.
- Pupils should stay at home if they feel unwell with symptoms and you should book them a PCR test.
- Everyone who tests positive must self isolate. Their close contacts should take a PCR test.
- By taking up the vaccine, you will protect yourself and others. Close contacts over 18 years who are unvaccinated or incomplete vaccination still do need to self-isolate for ten days.

What happens if there's an outbreak at a school?

Our Public Health team will support the school to manage the outbreak and additional safety measures may be put in to place for a period of time. We are committed to supporting schools and families throughout the pandemic to keep everyone safe and well.

Yours faithfully



Dr Muna Abdel Aziz
Director of Public Health



Charlotte Ramsden OBE
Strategic Director, People